



OFFICE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS APPOINTMENTS

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BUSINESS APPOINTMENT APPLICATION: MS NATALIE CEENEY

The Committee has been asked to consider an application from Ms Natalie Ceeney, former Director General (Chief Executive) at Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS), to take up a role with Anglian Water Services Ltd (Anglian) as a Non-Executive Director.

Appointment details

Ms Ceeney said her role will be as a paid, part-time and independent Non-Executive Member of the Board. She described it as covering all the responsibilities of a Board Director of a regulated company, which operates under Ofwat regulation. Ms Ceeney said she will have no specific responsibilities outside the NED role. She does not expect to have contact with Government in this role.

(Ofwat is a non-ministerial government department, responsible for economic regulation of the privatised water and sewerage industry in England and Wales.)

Ms Ceeney confirmed she had no previous official contact or contractual dealings with Anglian or its competitors; nor does she have commercially sensitive information about them.

HMCTS confirmed it has no relationship with Anglian; that Ms Ceeney had no previous involvement or official dealings with Anglian or its competitors; and that she had no access to relevant commercially sensitive, or policy or departmental information. HMCTS raised no concerns about this appointment.

The Committee's consideration

The Committee noted that Anglian operates within a sector unrelated to any of the work Ms Ceeney did whilst in Crown service; that both HMCTS and Ms Ceeney confirmed she had no official dealings with her prospective employer; and HMCTS confirmed it has no relationship with Anglian. As such, the Committee considered there is little risk this role would be perceived as a reward for her time in office.

HMCTS confirmed Ms Ceeney had no access to commercially sensitive, policy or departmental information that would provide Anglian with an unfair advantage over its competitors. The Committee also noted it has now been approximately 23 months since she

left office. Therefore, the Committee considered the risk that Anglian could potentially gain an unfair advantage as a result of employing Ms Ceeney, is low.

The Prime Minister accepted the Committee's advice that, in accordance with the Government's Business Appointment Rules, this appointment be subject to the following conditions:

- she should not draw on (disclose or use for the benefit of herself or the organisation to which this advice refers) any privileged information available to her from her time in Crown service; and
- for two years since her last day in Crown service, she should not become personally involved in lobbying the UK Government on behalf of Anglian Water Services Ltd.

By 'privileged information' we mean official information to which a Minister or Crown servant has had access as a consequence of his or her office or employment and which has not been made publicly available. Applicants are also reminded that they may be subject to other duties of confidentiality, whether under the Official Secrets Act, the Civil Service Code or otherwise.

The Business Appointment Rules explain that the restriction on lobbying means that the former Crown servant/Minister *"should not engage in communication with Government (Ministers, civil servants, including special advisers, and other relevant officials/public office holders) – wherever it takes place - with a view to influencing a Government decision, policy or contract award/grant in relation to their own interests or the interests of the organisation by which they are employed, or to whom they are contracted or with which they hold office."*

I should be grateful if you would ensure that we are informed as soon as Ms Ceeney takes up this position, or if it is announced that she will do so (I enclose a form for this purpose). We shall otherwise not be able to deal with any enquiries, since we do not release information about appointments which have not been taken up or announced, and this could lead to a false assumption being made about whether he had complied with the Rules.

I should also be grateful if you would ask that Ms Ceeney informs us if she proposes to extend or otherwise change the nature of her role as, depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary for her to make a fresh application.

Once this appointment has been publicly announced or taken up, we will publish this letter on the Committee's website and include the main details of the application, together with the Advisory Committee's advice, in the regularly updated consolidated list on our website and in the next annual report.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Parkington
Committee Secretariat